

March 4, 2013

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Mr. Milton Dohoney, Jr.
City Manager
City of Cincinnati
801 Plum St., Room 152
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Via Email Delivery

Dear Milton,

There is no question that monetizing the parking system allows the city to unlock resources that could have a significant impact on the economic growth of our community. However, it is critical that we maintain local control of the system and invest proceeds in job-creating capital projects.

It is our understanding that the Port Authority will serve as owner/lessee of the parking system and as such will maintain control of the system. We believe working with the Port Authority provides the best possible structure and protects the long-term interest of taxpayers. This partnership will ensure local, public control over a valuable community asset, improve operations, and leverage the Port's financing ability. It is imperative that decisions regarding the operations of the parking system be made in a manner consistent with promoting the ongoing redevelopment efforts in downtown and neighborhood business districts.

In addition, revenue secured from the parking proposal provides city leaders with an opportunity to spur economic development if invested correctly. We view investment in the I-71/MLK interchange project as a vital component of the parking proposal.

As you know, the interchange is a transformational initiative for the city and the seven neighborhoods that comprise the Uptown area. The UC Economics Center estimates the project will create 7,300 new permanent jobs and have a total employment impact of more than 10,000 jobs. No other project in the region can produce these results.

As you continue your deliberations, we encourage you to avoid using parking system proceeds as a short-term budget fix and address financial challenges through meaningful budget reforms. Every effort should be made now to address future deficits so that additional dollars from this initiative can be invested in job-creating capital projects. To that end, we continue to stand ready to assist you.

Some concerns have been raised in the community about the agreement's influence on transit projects. This issue, if one exists, should be addressed in a manner that will prevent any negative impact on future transportation projects that are important to the region.

We commend you for continuing to seek innovative approaches to improve our city and appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Williams
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Z. Lindgren".

Gary Z. Lindgren
Executive Director

CC: Mayor Mark Mallory
Cincinnati City Council Members